

Chapter 119: Stories

Claire

I know I'm still blushing when we get to warrior training. I mean, Tereshan's face was down there!

"That won't be the last time," he says quietly in my ear.

"What?" I yelp, looking at him.

"You're blushing again, I know what you're thinking. And it won't be the last time I do that, not when you taste so good. Now focus, I need you to get strong. Franco and Eason will be coming sooner rather than later."

We begin sparring again. "We have a lot to do today, but tonight, I want to take you to weapons training with Dane and Feena. I knew I had an affinity for knives, but I want to see which, if any, of the weapons you favor and get started with that training as well," he says.

We've been sparring for a while when suddenly Tereshan stands up. "Son of a bitch!" he says, loudly enough that everyone stops to look at him.

I'm panting, as Tereshan has been pushing me harder every day.

"What is it?"

"Do you remember me telling you about that delivery guy, the one that I said was asking for Roman?"

"Yeah," I tell him.

"He was there last night. I think he's one of Eason's men. That's how they were getting information in and out of the pack. Not only was Roman giving them information when he went to the brothel, but he was also using their 'delivery guys' to relay information."

His eyes refocus on me. "Can you handle the interviews of the girls we brought in last night? I need to deal with Tucker and then I need to interview Roman."

"Of course."

"Good. Dane, can you finish up with Claire, I need to get to cells." He turns to me.

"Finish sparring, then eat something and do the interviews, I'll catch up to you later."

He comes over, taking my face in his hands and kisses me like he always does, like he can't get enough of me, and he doesn't want to leave me.

"I'll talk to Dane and Jesiah today too, we'll make a plan. That way, when you're ready, we'll be ready."

I reach up and cup his face in my hands. "I'm ready."

His eyes go wide for a moment then his lips are

slamming down on mine, causing the pack members in warrior training to hoot and whistle. He lifts me up, and I wrap my arms and legs around him kissing him back, not caring about our audience.

When he finally pulls back, he runs his nose against mine. "And now you've put me in a good mood, just in time for me to have to go deal with a bunch of bullshit," he says.

"Something to brighten your day later when you think of it after the bullshit is done," I say, eliciting another greedy kiss from my mate.

He growls as he sets me back on my feet. "You make it harder and harder to leave you, but this way, we'll get more accomplished today."

He holds my hands, walking backward until he has to pull away. Then he turns and strides toward the cells.

"Lucy, do you want to try sparring with our Luna?" Dane asks.

I turn, seeing her in the group sparring today.

"I'm not sure I'm as good as Luna Claire is," she says.

"That's okay, we can talk and spar," I tell her.

She comes over and this time, I take defense and she takes offense. She has some knowledge, but she's very rusty.

"What do you want to talk about?"

"Where are you from? How did you come to be," I look around us at the warriors and omegas fighting, "where we found you last night."

She smiles at me. "Luna, I'm pretty sure everyone here knows that me and the others came from Alpha Franco's brothel. It's okay."

She shrugs before throwing a jab at me. I stop, correcting her posture, showing her how to turn her body to put her weight behind the punch before getting back into my defensive position. She practices it a couple of times before she answers my questions.

"My story is similar to many others. I was sold by my father to pay his debts. Of course, once Alpha Franco has you, your debts continue to accumulate. So, even after my father's debts were paid off, I couldn't get away from him. Every meal you eat, he charges five times what it should cost. We're charged for the rooms that we stay in. We're charged for water, soap, shampoo, pretty much everything you can think of, we're charged for it, which shouldn't be a problem, expect that we're barely paid anything. For instance, I think I heard that Alpha Tereshan paid \$25,000 last night for the three of us. Between the three of us, we were going to have to split \$500. If anyone complains about you, he takes even that away. Poor Jessie, she's done nothing but cry in the week she was there and so many complained about her, I'm

surprised that Ivy even sent her in to the room last night."

"I'll be talking to her later." I stop sparring, seeing that we've come to the end of the training.

"So, you have nowhere to go? No one that is looking for you?"

She scoffs. "My father may be looking for me, but he did this to me for his own greed, so no, there is no one for me."

There's a low, angry growl from across the training field and I see Lucy roll her eyes to the sky.

"I said I would give you a chance and I will," she says quietly.

Jesiah begins walking our way. "You aren't alone anymore. And no one here will charge you to eat, or for your room. So, let's go get breakfast."

Lucy looks at me. "I do want to earn my keep. I don't want to be a burden. I know how packs run and there is always work that needs to be done. Just tell me where you want me," she says.

I look at her. "Do you know how to read?"

She looks shocked that I would even ask.

"I do, actually."

"Good, I need someone to take over the library. I have books ordered, but we'll need more. I want tutors for the omegas to teach those that don't know how to read, I want it to be a place where people can go for calm, a place to relax or to grab a book and read if they want. Can you do that?" I ask her.

"Yes, Luna! I can do that."

"Good. Jesiah, once you have finished breakfast, can you show Lucy to the library and introduce her to Jacoby. He can show you around and tell you what still needs to be done," I tell her.

"Yes, Luna," Jesiah says.

"Thank you!" she says to me.

"Don't thank me yet. There's still a lot of work to be done and a pack war is coming, if not before Tereshan buys the brothel out from under Franco, then definitely afterward."

I walk inside with them, moving off to get food.

"Dane, are you headed to the cells by chance?" I ask when I see him.

"I am. I'm going to see if Alpha wants me to sit in on his interview with Roman."

I quickly make a plate of food. "Can you take this to him, please?"

"Will do, Luna."

After making my own plate, I see Feena sitting with Nita and Jessie. I look around and see Sadie sitting with Heath and Selah. Selah catches my eye and mouths a 'thank you' to me.

I nod before heading to sit with Feena, Nita and Jessie.

When I ask, Nita's story is very similar to Lucy's only it was her brother that sold her into prostitution. While Lucy had been in the brothel for nearly two years, Nita had been there about a year and a half.

I turn and look at Jessie. "And what about you?"

"My pack was decimated. Everyone was killed. I ran and hid. Then I tried to find food and stay away from the packs. Alpha Eason found me when I wandered onto his pack lands. He fed me then said he had a place for me, some place where I could live with other she-wolves. He made it sound glamorous," she says, hanging her head. Feena reaches out to hold her hand.

"Tell me more about your pack. What was your Alpha's name?"

When she tells me, my eyes flash to Feena's.

"I'm going to go make a phone call. I'll check on you later. If you need anything at all, let Feena know, and she can get me."

"Thank you, Luna."

I look at Feena. "I know we still need to talk, let me make this call first."

"I'll walk you to the office."

I watch as Jessie grabs her hand frantically, her eyes wide with fear.

"Nita will stay with you, I'll be right back," she tells her.

When we walk away, Feena turns to make sure she can't hear us.

"Luna, she's terrified. I had to sleep in her room with her last night. She had nightmares all night. And Luna, she's only fourteen. I don't know everything that they did to her, but....."

She doesn't have to finish. I already know it won't be good. I was there, I heard the sounds coming from the rooms we passed. Anything is allowed in that brothel. Anything.

When we get to the office, Feena goes back to be with Jessie, and I go to dial the number I know by heart.

"Alpha Keegan," he says as he answers.

"Keegan, it's Claire."

"Claire! To what do I owe this surprise?"

"I need to speak to Zoey please."

"She's right here, one moment."

"Hello, Luna. How can I help you?"

"Zoey, do you happen to remember if there was a young girl in your pack by the name of Jessie?"

"Yes, early teens, why?"

"She's here. We got her out of the brothel last night."

There's shuffling and muffled talking on her end.

"We'll be there in an hour," she says before hanging up.